

**UPPER TROSNANT
BAPTIST CHURCH**



**MAY 2022
NEWSLETTER**



As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Colossians 3:12

Services on Sundays at 11.00am

Online ministry Sunday@4

Go to Facebook or YouTube

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www.trosnant.org

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Newsletter Items:

We are always happy to receive items for the newsletter. Please email articles or features for the June 2022 edition to uppertrosnantbc@gmail.com by **Sunday 15th May.**

Letter from Pastor Richard

The Changing Seasons

As I'm sure you are aware by now, I love spending time in Pontypool Park. It is a wonderful place to go and walk as well as to stop to see the beauty that is there. As I write this, we are at the stage where the cherry blossom is on the trees, and it is a real joy to behold. As well as that, many leaves are becoming green. Yes, we are well and truly into Spring, and Summer is on its way.



This change of season happens every year, and we can easily take it for granted. But it is good to stop and think of the wonder of what is going on. These changes take place because God enables them. It is not simply blind chance. And, as I have pointed out before, the Bible promises that these changes will continue for as long as this earth does:

*"As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest,
cold and heat,
summer and winter,
day and night
will never cease."*

Genesis 8 v 22 (NIV)

This does not just apply to the seasons – we as human beings change too. If nothing else we become older, and there are signs in our bodies that this is happening. I'll say no more... There are good changes – if we belong to Jesus, we want, in our lives, to become more and more like him as we grow in our faith. If you have been a Christian for some time, I trust you can look back over your life and see the way that you have grown in your knowledge of God. If you don't yet know him, your life can change too, you can put your trust in him. Then your life will change completely – you will live for him and not simply yourself.

These changes, let me say again, all come about because God makes them happen. This song was written for the start of a year, but it applies just as much now:

*This spinning world by Your own hand
Hurls ever on around the sun.
The seasons march at Your command,
The old departs, the new year comes.
And though celestial is Your gaze
You search and care for all our ways:
We offer up to You this day,
And all of our tomorrows.*

(Dave Fournier and Ryan Foglesong
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Love in Jesus,

Pastor Richard

Pastor's Schedule for May

Friday 6th to Friday 13th – on placement in Poynton, Cheshire

Friday 20th & Saturday 21st – attending Cardiff Baptist College

Thursdays 5th & 26th – concentrating on college work

Thursday 19th & Friday 27th – Pastor's days off

Malcolm Williams

It is with sadness that we report that our dear brother Malcolm Williams passed away in the early hours of Wednesday 20th April. He was much loved by many people, and we appreciated his wit and friendliness. Our thoughts and prayers are particularly with Rhoswyn. We are comforted to know that Malcolm is now safely with the Lord.

Malcolm's funeral will take place on Tuesday 17th May at 11.30 am in Upper Trosnant, followed by interment in the Gwent Crematorium. There will be a full tribute to him in the June Newsletter.

Greetings from Doreen

It's May – and Spring has sweetly begun. We have certainly been blessed by April showers, and buds declare an abundance of May flowers soon to blossom into the loveliness of Summer! March winds and April showers never fail to bring forth May flowers. And the grey Winter skies are as necessary as blue skies and sunshine, in order for Wales to be beautiful. Life is like the weather: full of variety – and God has presented it so, for our benefit and blessing.

It's May – a month when we can express our joy in melody and music. May pole dancing introduces the summer term in school. What a blessing it is to have good purposes to send us on our way at the beginning of Summer.

It's May! The month when life does not always go according to expectations BUT always fulfils God's plan and perfect purpose for you.

Amongst a box of old photographs, I discovered one of myself probably when I was 8 years old. I am sitting behind a fountain wearing a white frilly dress, with a wide green silk sash and a large white hair bow. A May Queen outfit?

The children in my class at school had voted for me to be May Queen. I won the vote but never wore the outfit on the day, and so it was reserved for personal events like birthday parties. I became Maid of Honour at school on May Day.

It is my firm intention to prepare here on earth to be Maid of Honour for Jesus Christ, and so to continue in heaven, to stand firm with the belt of truth buckled round my waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, my feet filled with readiness that comes from the gospel of peace, to take up the shield of faith and take up the helmet of salvation and have all this come together by prayer!

With love,

Doreen

A Hymn for the Month of May?

May the mind of Christ, my Saviour,
live in me from day to day,
By His love and power controlling
all I do and say.

May the Word of God dwell richly
in my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph
only through His power.

May the peace of God my Father
rule my life in everything,
That I may be calm to comfort
sick and sorrowing.

May the love of Jesus fill me
as the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self-abasing,
this is victory.

May I run the race before me,
strong and brave to face the foe,
looking only unto Jesus
as I onward go.

May his beauty rest upon me
as I seek the lost to win,
and may they forget the channel,
seeing only him.

No, of course this beautiful hymn has nothing to do with the month of May! Rather, it is a simple, heartfelt prayer that we can all use on any or every day of the year as we seek to follow Jesus. Did you know that the inspiration for these words came from Paul's letter to the Philippians? In the New International Version that we read in church, chapter 2 verse 5 says: 'In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus'. The King James Version, which was used by the hymn's author, Kate Barclay Wilkinson, has 'Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.'

Not many details are known about the life of Kate Barclay Wilkinson, but the lovely echoes of the Bible in her poem are surely evidence that the Word of God did indeed dwell richly in her heart. Her father was an electrical engineer, and she was born at Timperley in Cheshire on 27 August 1859, and christened Kate Johnson; in 1891 she used the name Katie when she married Frederick Barclay Wilkinson, a clerk from London.

Kate and Frederick were active members of the Church of England, and Kate is known to have been involved in working with young women in the parish where she lived. She was also active in the Keswick 'Deeper Life' movement, by which Christians sought to grow in devotion and holiness in their daily lives. Her poem reflects this desire, as successive verses pray for a deeper experience of 'the mind of Christ', 'the will of God', 'the peace of God', and the 'love of Jesus'.

Kate wrote 'May the mind of Christ my Saviour' in 1912, when she was in her mid-50s, and she may have used it in teaching the young women with whom she worked. It was not published as a hymn until 1925, when it appeared in *Golden Bells*, a children's hymn book printed in London. As a hymn it grew rapidly in popularity, while the fifth verse was changed from the singular 'I' to the plural 'May we run the race before us', in order to make it more inclusive for congregations singing together.

Kate Barclay Wilkinson did not live to see the great success of her hymn, however, for she died at South Kensington, London, on 28 December 1928, only three years after it was published. But she had never sought to be famous, only to serve God wholeheartedly and faithfully in her daily life. More than anything, she wanted others to see Jesus in her acts of service. When we consider how many millions of people have sung these powerful words while knowing nothing of the person who wrote them, we can see how richly her prayer was answered. The final stanza of Kate's poem is usually omitted from hymnbooks, although it is perhaps the clearest summary of her Christian life and goals. She was indeed a channel through whose humble and devout life many people have come to know Christ; what a victory!

Clare Hopkins

Paul's Third Missionary Journey

Acts 18:23 After spending some time in Antioch, Paul travels throughout Galatia and Phrygia strengthening all the disciples.

Acts 19:1-41 Paul takes the road to Ephesus and meets some disciples who were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Paul was there for two years so that all Jews and Greeks heard the word of the Lord. Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines, caused a riot to protect his trade.

Acts 20:1-2 Paul sets out for Macedonia and arrives in Greece, where he stays for 3 months.

Acts 20:6 Paul and companions sail from Philippi and 5 days later arrive in Troas, meeting others who had gone on ahead. He stays 7 days. On the last evening he preaches all night. **Acts 20:13** Paul walks to Assos and boards a ship to Mytilene.

Acts 20:15-38 The next day they cross over to Samos and the following day arrive at Miletus. Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus because he was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem. From here Paul sends word to the Ephesian Elders, who meet with him. Paul preaches and kneels with them and prays. They all weep and embrace Paul because he said they would never see his face again; they accompany him to the ship.

Acts 21:1-3 The ship sails to Cos, and the next day they find a ship crossing Phoenicia and after sighting Cyprus and passing to the south they sailed to Syria and landed at Tyre.

Acts 21:5- On a beach they kneel to pray and say goodbye to the disciples and their wives and children.

Acts 21:7 They continue to Caesarea where the people were pleading with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem.



Mission Focus: An Update from the Douglas Family

At Upper Trosnant we give regularly to support Helen and Angus Douglas, who work with BMS World Mission in Kathmandu, Nepal. Here is their latest update:

Spring in Nepal

One of the things that still surprises me, even after 10 years in Nepal, is the quick change of seasons. Only four weeks ago we were snuggling under blankets to keep warm in the evenings, now the fans are on keeping us cool! Sadly, the seasons are not the only change the world has seen since we last wrote, with the tragic war in Ukraine. Even at this distance the ripples are felt – with Russian and Ukrainian community members here worried about loved ones back home and struggling to access finances. KISC students have been fundraising and praying for those struggling. BMS World Mission is also supporting the Ukrainian church and community relief work with its' partners, through a financial appeal, providing a light in the darkness.

Here in Nepal also, BMS together with the International Nepal Fellowship (INF) seeks to bring God's light to those in dark places. Palliative care (PC) was first introduced into Nepal about 20 years ago; however, with services limited to urban areas, the majority still have no access. In 2013 INF started their palliative care service at Green Pastures Hospital in Pokhara. The aim is to provide holistic care, including pain and symptom management and end-of-life care, to people with life limiting illnesses, and their families. This work has expanded to include annual introductory and refresher palliative care training for healthcare workers and the adaptation and translation of PC resources for use in Nepal, both of which Helen has been involved with.

In March this year, the covid-delayed formal inauguration of the new Palliative Care and Chronic Disease Services building at Green Pastures Hospital took place. The new centre includes a 14-bed inpatient unit and clinic rooms, with the annexe building housing counselling, office space and a gym for chronic disease rehabilitation. This new centre will provide integrated palliative care and chronic disease management, acting as a base for both inpatient, outpatient and community service together with training and research.

The individual impact of palliative care is huge; providing care, compassion and hope to patients at often their loneliest and most frightening moments. One young woman described the help she had received following her diagnosis of secondary cancer, saying, "I couldn't afford cancer treatment, so I would have died leaving my children wandering the streets alone... but I have had treatment and good palliative care here and this has saved my life. God has provided for my children who are living in a Christian hostel nearby. God has blessed me abundantly." We pray that the new centre will be a place of hope and compassion, reflecting God's light to those in darkness and pain.

We are all looking forward to a family break in Pokhara over the Easter holiday including a retreat with the rest of the INF team. Despite the darkness in the world and in the lives of so many around us, we have hope. Easter provides the reason for this hope. After the darkness and despair of good Friday, Jesus walks out of the tomb having defeated death once and for all. His light and life is the hope that we celebrate and share. Thank you for joining us in this.

Angus and Helen

The kitchen is open

It's great to be sharing fellowship in the hall, and to have refreshments at different meetings. It's been a while since we've had to think about our health and safety guidelines, so here is a reminder.



- Please make sure to wash/sanitise hands before starting
- Only pre-packaged food can be served. We are not at the stage of making sandwiches etc just yet
- Please make sure biscuits etc go back into airtight containers, and please don't leave anything in the fridge apart from milk
- Make sure to empty kettles and switch them off at the wall
- Please sanitise countertop and tables with anti-bac spray

Thank you for helping to keep each other safe and well, **Annmarie**

Upper Trosnant Update

- We had a truly blessed Easter weekend as we celebrated the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. In fact, it started the previous Wednesday in the market, as we joined other Christians in Pontypool to sing hymns together. And there was another opportunity on Good Friday to witness together with other churches in the town centre. At least 6 churches were involved in these activities, and we are looking to the future to find ways in which our united witness can continue.
- For our own Easter Sunday meetings, we really did know God's presence with us. In the morning, we were able to sing Easter songs and hymns together and remind ourselves of the responses of different people at the time of Jesus' resurrection. In the afternoon was our Sunday @ 4 Special in the hall. We had tea, coffee and hot cross buns, and a great time of fellowship and chat together. We looked there at why the Resurrection is so important, from 1 Corinthians 15.
- Our church Annual General Meeting was held at the end of March. Unfortunately, Pastor Richard was unwell, so unable to attend. We are grateful to Annmarie for chairing the meeting. The ongoing activities of the church were discussed, it was agreed to keep things as they are for the moment and review again in the Autumn. In addition, in principle it was agreed that our annual tithe should go to the same places and people as last year. Please speak to Pastor Richard or another member of the Leadership Team for more information.
- On Wednesday 27th April, we had a special church meeting with Christian Williams from the Baptist Union of Wales, speaking to us about our future charitable status as a church. There will be a full report in the next newsletter, explaining the various steps that Upper Trosnant needs to take.
- Christian Aid week is from 15th – 21st May. The theme this year is 'Help Turn Hunger into Hope'; donations are used around the world to support communities in food growing and irrigation projects. Envelopes are available in Church if you would like to give – please put them into the offering bag.

CHURCH DIARY FOR MAY

SUNDAY SERVICES AND PREACHERS

11.00 am: In the Church building and live on Zoom.
Followed by Tea and Coffee in the Hall.

Sunday 1st – The Rev Richard Harrison

Sunday 8th – The Rev Howard Jones

Sunday 15th – Pastor Richard (Communion)

Sunday 22nd – Dale Norman

Sunday 29th – Pastor Richard

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS @ 4

1st – Facebook Live with Pastor Richard

8th – Facebook Live with Pastor Richard

15th – Sunday @ 4 Special in the Church Hall: Changing Seasons

22nd – Facebook Live with Pastor Richard

29th – The Bible as History: Pastor Richard talks to Dale Norman about the book of Revelation

PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY

Every Wednesday evening **IN THE HALL** from 6.50 – 8.30 pm.
The meeting begins with tea, coffee and biscuits.

SISTERHOOD

Every Tuesday afternoon **IN THE HALL** from 2.30 – 4.00 pm.
All ladies are invited to join us for tea, coffee, cake and biscuits, followed by a time of sharing fellowship and God's word together.

MAY ROTAS			
Sunday	Door	Teas	Flowers
1 st	Annmarie	Annmarie (am)	Barbara
8 th	Clare	Clare (am)	Clare
15 th	Jill	Jill (am) Annmarie (pm)	Anthea
22 nd	Annmarie	Annmarie (am)	Janet P
29 th	Anthea	Anthea (am)	Pam

Monday Afternoons – What's Occurin'?

As the summer begins, several opportunities for fellowship and outreach are starting too on Monday afternoons. Why not note these dates on your calendar, or invite a friend to come along with you?

OPEN HOUSE

This is Upper Tronsnant's regular meeting where you can drop in for refreshments, a friendly chat, or to play a board game, or do some craft. We meet in the Hall on the second Monday of each month, and love to welcome new faces.

Open House: Monday May 9th, 2 – 4 pm

GARDEN FELLOWSHIP

Garden Fellowship starts again in May and will continue until the end of September. This is an opportunity for tea, coffee, biscuits and a chat in Pastor Richard and Annmarie's garden, behind the hall. If the weather is wet, we can move into the hall. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Garden Fellowship: Mondays 16th, 22nd, 29th May, from 3.00 pm

TY CEIRIOS

Also in May, we are re-commencing our monthly visits to Ty Ceirios. For many years Upper Trosnant members and friends took short services in several local residential care homes, and it is wonderful that after a two-year break on account of covid, this ministry is able to start again. This is an opportunity to go and sing hymns and share a message from the Bible with folk who are unable to get to church. It will usually be on the third Monday afternoon of each month. No special skills are required – just a friendly smile! If you would like to join us there, or would like more information, please speak to Pastor Richard.

Visit to Ty Ceirios: Monday 16th May at 2.00 pm

PRAYER PAGE

- Pray for Pastor Richard as he enters the final term of his studies at Cardiff Baptist College and spends a week away on placement at Poynton.
- Pray for all the Services and meetings in Upper Trosnant during the month ahead, that many will be blessed as they join with us. Pray especially that the sun will shine on Garden Fellowship afternoons!
- Lift up Pastor Richard, Annmarie and the Leadership Team as they seek organise and plan meetings and events for our Church. Thank God that Keith is continuing to recover from his surgery.
- Pray for Rhoswyn, Stephen and Josh, as they mourn the passing of Malcolm. Praise God for Malcolm's life, and give thanks for all that he did, and all that he meant to so many.
- Please pray for the staff and residents of Ty Ceirios, that the first service there for two years will bring great joy and blessing to all who attend. Remember too 'our' other care homes, Ty Bryn and the Regency Home.
- Pray for all those we know and support working for the Lord at home and around the World: Angus and Helen Douglas with BMS World Mission in Nepal; Sue and David Verwey with the Japan Mission; Margaret Collins-Reese with the Messianic Testimony in Toulouse; Naomi Norman with the Covenant Players. Lift up Dale too as he as he continues to study at Cardiff College.
- Please pray for those who are ill or recovering from illness or accidents, and for those living with long-term health concerns, including: Val Attwell, Emma Attwell, Beryl our 'Blaenavon friend', Barbara's sister Brenda, Pam Charles, Doreen Dixon, Lindsey Firth, Audrey and Eric Jones, Dorothy Lewis, Jean Miles, Helen Norman, Phil Norman, Janet Pollard, Ann Price, Ron Saunders, Jo Shanahan, Alwyn and Ann Stephens, Alan Stephens, Linda Swires-Hennessy, Greta and Derek Wagg, Marion Webb.



Hello MAY

**UPPER TROSNANT
BAPTIST CHURCH**

**Sunday Afternoons
in May**

15th Sunday @ 4 Special in the Church Hall
'Changing Seasons'

29th The Bible as History on YouTube
***'Pastor Richard talks to Dale Norman
about the book of Revelation'***

1st, 8th and 22nd Facebook Live with Pastor Richard

**Please pray that we will know God
being present with us as we meet together
to praise the risen Lord Jesus Christ.**

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